

Getting Involved

Revitalizing older commercial districts is a long process that takes vision, dedication and team work. The NCR Program and the City are committed to that process. Our goal is to create jobs, economic opportunity and a better quality of life in San Antonio's older neighborhoods.

Working together, you and a few other dedicated people can bring fresh ideas and new opportunities to your commercial district.

Fresh paint, attractive amenities, new businesses -- these are all signs of a revitalized commercial district. But they cannot occur without one essential ingredient: business and resident participation in the revitalization process.

That's the idea behind the Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Program.

NCR puts neighborhood stakeholders - merchants, residents, commercial property owners and others - at the forefront of their district's revitalization process. It gives participants the tools they need to create jobs and spur investments, improve infrastructure and "curb appeal," attract and retain businesses, and reassert their commercial identities.

How NCR Works

NCR Works on three levels:

- **Revitalization Projects** to create and implement a vision
- **Partnership Projects** to build capacity for renewal
- **NCR Networking Forum** to provide tools for success

Revitalization Projects

NCR helps revitalization organizations - which serve as lead agencies for their district's renewal efforts - to put their specific plans into action. Each year, up to three neighborhood commercial districts may be selected as Revitalization Projects, giving them direct assistance in achieving their vision.

Implementation Assistance

The cornerstones of any successful revitalization effort are market research, planning and implementation. Currently Revitalization Projects receive funding of \$225,000 over a 3-year period to help undertake these steps.

Technical and Financial Assistance

In addition to the resources of the Neighborhood Action Department, Revitalization Projects are encouraged to use the expertise of City departments, such as Code Compliance, Planning, Building Inspections, Economic Development and others that can assist their efforts. Businesses within Revitalization Project Districts can also take advantage of targeted economic development incentives such as Operation Facelift, a façade improvement grant program.

Infrastructure Development Assistance

Public improvements, such as streetscaping, drainage work, sidewalks and parking are also visible signs of revitalization. For NCR Revitalization Projects, priorities and funding for public infrastructure improvements will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Partnership Projects

A shared vision and strong organization are the launching points for successful revitalization efforts. Getting there is the challenge. Partnership Projects help participants develop a vision for their business district and determine what steps are needed to make the vision a reality.

Typical Partnership Project activities include:

- establishing an organizing structure
- identifying all stakeholders and soliciting participation
- developing a building inventory
- assessing problems in the target area
- undertaking community outreach efforts

Currently, up to four commercial districts are selected as Partnership Projects. Length of participation is 1-2 years, depending on a Partnership Project's progress and needs.

NCR Networking Forum

The NCR Networking Forum provides participants with a means of sharing information, ideas, expertise and experiences. Activities include regular meetings, special forums, educational seminars and training opportunities on topics such as:

- customer attraction
- volunteer recruitment and retention
- leadership development
- design standards and facade improvements
- newsletter writing
- grant writing and fundraising

The NCR Networking Forum maintains a library of books, magazines, videotapes, slide presentations, training manuals and other reference materials related to commercial revitalization. The library is available to participants and the community at large.

**For more information,
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